

Region 1

Hot Topics

Region 1 Provides Ammonia Refrigeration Training for Ice Rink Sector

On November 12, R1 trained 92 participants through an in-person workshop and webinar titled *Ammonia Refrigeration Training for Ice Rink Owners & Contractors*. The training was co-presented by EPA and the Ammonia Safety & Training Institute (ASTI). The training reviewed ammonia safety and federal regulatory requirements including EPCRA Tier 2 reporting and was held at the R1 laboratory in Chelmsford, MA. Ice rinks are part of R1's Recreation Smart Sectors program.

Region 1 Holds WasteWise Forum as part of America Recycles Week

On November 13, EPA co-sponsored the bi-annual WasteWise Forum with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and RecyclingWorksMA at UMass Dartmouth. The workshop highlighted food recovery at businesses and institutions and drew over 50 practitioners. RA Deziel gave remarks and presented UMass Dartmouth a national WasteWise Partner of the Year award.

New Hampshire Senator Requests Briefing with EPA Regarding PFAS at Pease Air Force Base

On November 13, Senator Hassan's office requested a briefing with EPA or other federal agencies regarding early cleanup activities in the 1980s-1990s. R1 suggested that the briefing include the entire cleanup team, including Air Force as the lead agency, EPA, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, due to the amount of cleanup work being done outside of CERCLA (e.g., UST, oil spills). The request likely originates from recent citizen concern and press over New Hampshire's new PFAS MCLs and Air Force's position to date that they will not comply with the MCLs at a handful of private drinking water wells in the area. There has also been recent press regarding health concerns of active Air National Guardsmen and widows/families reporting on high incidence of bladder and prostate cancer for members of the National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing working at the former base. R1 suggested the briefing be planned during the week of December 2.

Unexploded Ordinances Discovered at Joint Base Cape Cod

Last week, two 500-pound general purpose bombs were uncovered while investigating Metal Mapper targets at Joint Base Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Each bomb is approximately three feet in length and is presumed to contain over 200 pounds of explosives. These bombs will likely be blown in place in December/January. R1 will provide advance notification to surrounding communities.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 1 To Host Annual Clean Water Act Inspector Workshop

On November 18-21, R1 will host the annual 2019 Clean Water Act NPDES National Technical Inspector Workshop in Boston. We expect up to 120 state and EPA inspectors from across the country. The workshop will include presentations by senior water inspectors, break-out discussions, and a series of field exercises at industrial and municipal sites.

Pharmaceutical Rule Training

On November 19, EPA will host a Pharmaceutical Rule training at the R1 Laboratory in Chelmsford, MA. The one-day training is designed for RCRA program, enforcement and RCRAIn.

Region 2Hot Topics**Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline (Williams Transco)**

In May, National Grid announced a moratorium on connecting new gas customers in NYC and Long Island after NYS and NJ regulators rejected the Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline (NESE) Williams Cos Inc. wants to build to provide gas service to National Grid's downstate customers. According to press accounts, Gov. Cuomo has threatened to revoke National Grid's natural gas certificate in two weeks over the moratorium. NOAA has started the clock on the Section 7 endangered species formal consultation for the NESE pipeline. NOAA stated in a letter to FERC that they expect to complete the formal consultation in January 2020. This consultation is running concurrently with Williams' resubmittal of water quality and other permits to NY and NJ.

RA Lopez at America Recycles Week Events in Washington, DC

R2, as Lead Region for OLEM's RCRA programs and Sub-Lead for Sustainable Materials Management, is participating with Administrator Wheeler at the America Recycles Week events in Washington, DC. RA Lopez will attend the Recycling Innovations Fair on November 14 and the Leadership Roundtable on November 15. RA Lopez also will participate in the ARD Summit, where he will deliver remarks addressing the perspective of the regions on recycling and the challenges faced in maximizing the program.

Meeting with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)

RA Lopez and ARD leadership met with PANYNJ Executive Director Rick Cotton and his staff on efforts to promote environmental sustainability in port operations while advancing PANYNJ's role as a major driver of economic activity and job creation. PANYNJ oversees the largest marine port on the East Coast and the second largest in the country. The meeting comes at a critical juncture. The existing collaborative effort to implement the PANYNJ's Clean Air Strategy is nearing completion. At the meeting, all agreed to work together on developing strategies to address regional challenges.

GAO Review: Environmental Programs for Tribes

EPA was notified in July that GAO was beginning a review of environmental programs for tribes. The engagement is designed to review available programs and funding for tribes to address environmental issues and the extent that tribes have used available programs and grants to assert tribal priorities and address contiguous, off-reservation pollution sources. GAO has requested 17 separate interviews with EPA as part of the review. This includes offices that work with grants for tribes: six headquarters offices (OITA, OGD, OLEM, OW, OAR and OCSPP), 10 EPA regions, and one interview with grants specialists across EPA. R2 has subsequently been notified by OCFO not to schedule interviews or provide information to GAO regarding the engagement pending a meeting on November 18 to discuss EPA's approach for scheduling the follow-up meetings with GAO.

Irma/Maria Recovery

The Mission Assignment for the U.S. Virgin Islands has been extended until the end of calendar year 2019. EPA's Interagency Agreements are currently being reviewed by FEMA. Once the Interagency Agreements are finalized, the Mission Assignments will be cancelled.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Electric Buses in Bayshore, NY Thanks to DERA Grant Program**

On November 19, RA Lopez will be in Bayshore, NY to announce a DERA grant award to the local school district that will bring four fully-electric school buses and charging infrastructure to the Long Island community.

RA Lopez in NY's Capital District

RA Lopez is a featured speaker on November 20 at the NYS Business Council Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. RA Lopez and ARD leadership will participate in a meet-and-greet session with Federal Highway Administration's NY Division Administrator Richard Marquis and Anna Price from the Office of Program Management, in Albany, NY on November 21. Discussion topics will include Clean Vehicle Corridors, truck

hoteling at rest stops, freight-movement sustainability, and an update on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway reconstruction project.

Region 3

Hot Topics

Region 3 Discusses Carbon Sequestration Project with PADEP

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has directed PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to propose a rulemaking package to abate, control, or limit CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel-fired electric power generators. The Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) project is being developed by PADEP, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) and PA Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED). The CCUS Project is taking a holistic approach at greenhouse gas reduction in PA, specifically capturing carbon and storing it underground in depleted oil and gas reservoirs. On November 4, R3 held a conference call with PADEP's Bureau of Oil & Gas Planning and Program Management to discuss Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI well regulations. UIC Class VI wells are used to inject CO₂ into underground formations for long-term storage. EPA provided information on the Class VI regulations, permitting process, and what steps the Commonwealth would need to take to obtain primacy. Currently, EPA has primacy for Class VI wells in all states and territories except ND.

Wastewater Compliance Assistance in Pennsylvania

R3 is working with Bedford Borough, Pocono Plateau Retreat Camp, Delaware Valley School District, Cornwall Borough Municipal Authority, and Girardville Borough in PA and Millsboro, DE, on wastewater compliance assistance. The assistance varies from wastewater operator training, sampling, data collection, and operational adjustment suggestions at the treatment plants. R3 recently purchased equipment to perform collection system flow monitoring and analysis to identify sewer sections that take on high amounts of stormwater. Utility operators and managers appreciate the support coming from the State and EPA. R3 undertook a similar initiative with the City of Cumberland, MD wastewater treatment plant. In 2017, R3 provided suggestions on improving plant aeration system controls and equipment to reduce cost and improve treatment efficiency. This resulted in the City being awarded a \$1 million grant from Maryland Department of the Environment. R3 also connected the City with an electric company that provided a rebate of approximately \$200,000. The project, which is currently under construction, will save the City well over \$100,000 in electricity costs and improved operations.

Region 3 Partners with University of Pennsylvania and the Community Engineering Corps

On November 12, EPA met with the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) and the Community Engineering Corps (CEC) to offer free engineering and technical assistance to water/wastewater utilities. The meeting was led by a representative from the CEC and attended by faculty from the Penn, members from the Water Center at Penn, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and Penn students. The initial project focus areas will be Schuylkill County and ground water systems and/or septic system problems in DE. One or two communities will be identified for assistance at a time, and projects should be completed in about one year. EPA and the Water Center at Penn will suggest possible candidate communities, and the Community Engineering Corp will vet the communities to confirm need and to ensure the project scope is appropriate. The students, professors, and engineers from AWWA will initiate action on the projects. Project identification is scheduled for March.

EPA Issues Specific Objection to West Virginia Construction Stormwater General Permit

On October 31, EPA issued a specific objection to WVDEP's modification of the state-wide General Permit for Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities (CGP). The CGP was reviewed by EPA in 2018 and became effective in February 2019 but was appealed by the West Virginia Manufacturers Association prior to its effective date. The West Virginia Environmental Quality Board issued a stay of the permit to allow for the parties to negotiate a settlement agreement. The parties reached agreement in April, which the WV Environmental Quality Board memorialized in an order. In August, WVDEP submitted to EPA a proposed modification of the CGP that included the terms of the Settlement Agreement. However, the modification did not comply with requirements of federal and state law (Clean Water Act, federal regulations, and West Virginia state regulations), resulting in EPA's objection.

Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area Site Remedial Investigation Sampling Start

Sampling work as part of the site Remedial Investigation in Minden, West Virginia, began in the first week of November. Sampling during this week consisted of advancing soil borings using a direct push sampling rig and focused on the former Shaffer Equipment property and adjacent potential source areas. Sampling will continue for the next several weeks.

2019 Federal Environmental Symposium

The 2019 Federal Environmental Symposium was held October 30 and 31 at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. The symposium is a gathering of federal agencies to provide environmental information to federal representatives, with a focus on encouraging partnerships, sharing of information, and best practices amongst federal facilities. Speakers from federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, academia and private organizations representing a federal agency, presented at the event.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Servidio has the following events scheduled:

November 15	Sparrows Point Site Visit, Baltimore, MD
November 19	Pennsylvania Farm Tours and Farmer Roundtable, Lancaster, PA
November 20	Meeting with PA House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Harrisburg, PA

Region 4

Hot Topics

Westside Lead Superfund Site (Atlanta, GA)

R4 continues to sample residential properties within the current site boundaries. To date, 112 residential properties have been sampled. Of those, 56 properties (50%) have lead concentrations greater than 400 ppm. R4 continues to search for owners of vacant properties and secure access agreements for the remaining properties.

America Recycles Week

During the week of November 11, R4 celebrated America Recycles Week with a series of activities, including a presentation of the Federal Green Challenge award to the Veterans Administration, a “lunch and learn” presentation about deconstruction of buildings in the City of Atlanta, awarding grants to the Lifecycle Building Center and Food Well Alliance, and presenting at the Western NC Food Waste Summit.

Coal Combustion Residuals (Georgia)

Draft Georgia Coal Combustion Residuals Permit Program approval documents, which include the final Federal Register Notice and the Response to Comments, were finalized and forwarded to EPA-HQ/ORCR for final routing through OLEM. R4 concurrence is anticipated by November 15. Final approval is expected from Administrator Wheeler by December 16.

Mississippi 2015 8-hour ozone transport SIP

On November 12, R4 sent a letter to the MS Department of Environmental Quality deeming their 2015 8-hour ozone transport SIP as complete. This action results in MS not receiving a Finding of Failure to Submit or being included in the ongoing litigation related to states’ failure to submit these SIPs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Miccosukee Treatment as State (TAS) Application

On November 21, R4, and other governmental stakeholders will participate in the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida annual meeting and plans to provide a status update on the TAS application for Water Quality Standards for the addition of five tracts of land. The TAS application has been under review by EPA since January because of a sovereign submerged land claim from the state of Florida. EPA has been in correspondence with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to formally respond to that claim and approve the additional tracts of land into the TAS. A decision is anticipated in January 2020.

November 19	RA Walker and staff will participate in the Gulf Restoration meeting that will be held in Washington, DC. Closed Press.
November 22	RA Walker will meet with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the annual enforcement state visit. Nashville, TN. Closed Press.

Region 5**Hot Topics****EPA Announces Grants for Great Lakes Work in Ohio**

Five Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants totaling nearly \$3.5 million recently were awarded to four Ohio agencies and organizations. The grants were awarded to Ohio EPA, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization to restore wetlands, control and prevent invasive species, and continue cleanup and restoration work in Areas of Concern. The grants are part of a larger effort to restore and protect the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Last month, EPA announced GLRI Action Plan III, which will guide EPA and its partners over the next five years in their work to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

No Asian Carp Found in Chicago River

Asian carp capture efforts in the Chicago Area Waterway System have found no carp so far. The netting effort was suspended the week of November 11 due to cold weather but will resume the following week. Illinois Department of Natural Resources and partner agencies under the leadership of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) is conducting the search. EPA is a member of ACRCC. The fishing was initiated after sampling detected the presence of Asian carp environmental DNA in the Chicago River. An interesting finding during the first week of searching for Asian carp was when wildlife officials found no fish living in Bubbly Creek, an infamous tributary of the Chicago River where a century ago waste was dumped from the Chicago stockyards, which still causes noxious gases to bubble to the surface.

U.S. Steel Consent Decree

EPA, the Department of Justice, and the state of Indiana expect to move to enter a consent decree resolving claims related to an April 2017 spill into Lake Michigan at the U.S. Steel Portage, IN, plant. Intervenor plaintiffs Surfrider Foundation and city of Chicago have objected to the proposed CD and noted the USS facility on October 30 reported a hexavalent chromium spill. DOJ is prepared to move to enter a revised and improved USS decree. The CD has not yet gone into effect because the settlement was conditioned on completion of the public comment process, including extensive comments from Chicago and Surfrider. As a result of those public comment, the parties revised the CD to strengthen and broaden public notification procedures in the event of a future spill and to include an Environmentally Beneficial Project, overseen by Indiana, requiring water quality testing and reporting by USS of pollutants at several shore locations along Lake Michigan near the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Dow Chemical Settlement for Tittabawassee/Saginaw Rivers Natural Resources Damage

EPA is not a party to a \$77 million Dow Chemical settlement for environmental damage to the Tittabawassee/Saginaw rivers and Saginaw Bay from pollution releases at Dow's Midland, MI, plant. In a settlement 10 years in the making, Dow agreed to the funding and projects that will restore fish and wildlife habitats injured by releases of dioxin and other hazardous substances. The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs; Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); Michigan Attorney General's Office; and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan acted together as natural resources trustees. The natural resource damages settlement is separate from the agreement for ongoing cleanup of the rivers and riverbank being conducted by Dow under EPA and EGLE oversight.

Cleanup Continues at Bridgewood Lane Site in Glendale, WI

EPA is conducting a time-critical removal action to address elevated lead and arsenic contamination at an elementary school and residential neighborhood. The Bridgewood Lane site is in Glendale near Milwaukee. Of the 19 single-family residential properties sampled in the subdivision, 15 properties with excessive lead and arsenic concentrations are targeted for cleanup. EPA has completed excavation and backfill work at the Parkway Elementary School. Final restoration work at the school is on hold until spring. One residential property will be partially excavated and backfilled before work ends November 22, but remaining cleanup must wait until spring due to early season snowfall.

Tribal-State-EPA MOU for Drinking Water Oversight Signed

R5 will assume oversight of Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribe's new Rodgers Lake Public Water System under a memorandum of understanding. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is also a party to the MOU. The Pokagon Band's Rodgers Lake Public Water System was recently constructed in Cass County, MI, on fee lands owned by the Band but under state jurisdiction. The MOU represents a mutual agreement among all three parties that EPA will supervise the water system, even parts on fee lands, until the fee lands officially become tribal lands, a process that may take several years to complete.

Judge Rules Against EPA in Ohio Lake Erie litigation

On November 13, a federal district court judge in Toledo ruled against EPA's request to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to compel the agency to establish TMDLs to address Lake Erie impairments. Earlier this year the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC) filed a citizen suit against EPA on behalf of itself and Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie. Lucas County, OH, also joined the lawsuit. The complaint claims EPA's approval of Ohio's 303(d) impaired waters list was arbitrary and capricious because it allegedly allowed Ohio EPA to develop an alternative to a TMDL for Lake Erie's algae-plagued western basin. The federal court is allowing the lawsuit to proceed, and EPA can either appeal the court's order denying the motion to dismiss or defend against the lawsuit. R5 is coordinating with OGC and OW on this matter and whether to appeal the court's order.

Illinois Senate Panel Stops EtO Phase-out Bill

On November 13, a bill passed by the Illinois House that would phase out the use of ethylene oxide except in sparsely populated areas failed to advance in a State Senate committee. The bill would have required Medline Industries in Lake County to move its plant away from densely populated neighborhoods or switch to safer alternatives for sterilizing medical equipment by the end of 2020. The measure would also have phased out EtO emissions from sterilization facilities by 2021, greatly restrict hospital usage, and require Illinois EPA to conduct a comprehensive review of EtO use and emissions in Illinois. Senators complained they heard contradicting testimonies on potential job losses, medical supply shortages, and even the potential of the gas to cause cancer. Sponsors say they will bring up the bill again in the new legislative session in January. A new Illinois law enacted last summer prohibits EtO sterilization facilities from operating in Illinois unless they capture 100 percent of all emissions within the facility and reduce EtO emissions to the ambient air to 0.2 ppm. Under the new law, facilities will also be required to conduct annual emissions tests and quarterly air sampling.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ohio Industry Day

On November 20, RA Stepp and R5 divisional leaders will meet with business representatives on the latest environmental and regulatory developments during Ohio Industry Day at R5's Chicago offices.

Illinois Manufacturer's Association Environmental Conference

On November 21, RA Stepp will speak on EPA's strategic goals at the Illinois Manufacturer's Association Environmental Conference in Oak Brook, IL.

Region 6Hot Topics**EXPLO, Camp Minden, Louisiana**

On November 4, the Louisiana Military Department (LMD) updated the Community Advisory Group that the burn chamber is expected to be removed from Camp Minden by the end of April 2020. Following removal of the burn chamber, LMD will conduct environmental sampling as required in the approved closure plan. If results indicate no further actions are required, LMD will provide a final report to EPA indicating completion of the removal action. A public event will be held in late spring or early summer 2020 by EPA, LDEQ, and LMD to mark the completion of the removal action.

USOR Superfund Site, Pasadena, Texas

Representatives of the City of Pasadena have requested a meeting to discuss reconsideration of R6's position regarding application of the domestic sewage exclusion. R6 does not believe the exclusion applies since the City did not remove the solid/sludge prior to selling the facility. City of Pasadena has been named as a potentially responsible parties for the USOR Superfund Site located in Pasadena, TX, based on the ownership/operation of the City's former publicly owned treatment works, which was decommissioned in 2004. This site laid dormant for five years until 2009 when the City sold the assets to an oil recycling company. A separate court action regarding liability and cost-share, in which EPA is not a party, ruled against the city.

City of Fort Smith, Arkansas

On November 13, City officials requested a meeting to discuss the consent decree for wastewater collection system improvements and filed a Notice of Dispute with DOJ. The consent decree includes dispute resolution procedures and the incoming letters are under consideration. On October 8, DOJ and EPA denied the City's proposals to modify the existing consent decree. The City does not believe it will successfully comply with the consent decree in 2020 due to financial limitations.

Mosaic Fertilizer Uncle Sam, Convent, Louisiana

On November 21, EPA, LDEQ, and Mosaic plan to meet to discuss a proposed treatment plan. EPA and LDEQ recently provided technical comments to Mosaic on its approach to calculating freeboard in the context of the freeboard requirements of the Consent Decree. Their approach is not allowed under the CD. Removing the EDI capacity from the calculation indicates that Mosaic is not meeting the CD freeboard requirements and may be encroaching into the surge capacity of the LPDES permit triggering the permit's requirements.

US Navy Base, Various Cities, Texas

Previously scheduled for this month, the Navy has delayed a Risk Communication Strategy Session until January 28-30, 2020. This action is part of its Expedited Response Effort at NAS Corpus Christi/NALF Waldron/NAS Kingsville, which includes reaching out to residents within one mile downgradient of the installation to request permission to sample private drinking water wells for PFAS. An Open House Public Meeting is now tentatively scheduled for the week of February 25, 2020.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Oklahoma SIP Revisions, General Updates and PSD Public Notice and Appendix W Updates, Oklahoma**

By November 21, EPA anticipates proposed approval of revisions to the Oklahoma SIP for general updates and PSD permitting updates for the current Appendix W and public notice requirements.

New Mexico and Albuquerque 2008 Ozone Interstate Transport Proposed Rule, New Mexico

By November 21, EPA anticipates approval on submissions from the State of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County for the 2008 Ozone Interstate Transport Rule. EPA is proposing to approve both submittals based on the conclusion that New Mexico will not significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2008 ozone NAAQS in any other state.

Exceptional Events Demonstrations, 2018 for PM10, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

By November 25, EPA anticipates concurrence on the City of Albuquerque request that certain ambient air monitoring data for particulate matter (PM) be excluded from regulatory actions. The final Exceptional Event Demonstration package for PM less than 10 microns in diameter was submitted on October 11.

Exceptional Events Demonstrations, 2017 for PM10, Dona Ana and Luna Counties, New Mexico

By November 25, EPA anticipates concurrence on the NMED requests that certain ambient air monitoring data - particulate matter (PM) - be excluded from regulatory actions. The final Exceptional Event Demonstration package for PM less than 10 microns in diameter was submitted on November 4.

November 19	EPA Gulf Restoration Meeting (RESTORE/NRDA), Washington, DC
November 20	Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), Tulsa, OK
November 21	Ag Smart Sectors Roundtable, Dallas, TX
November 22	New Mexico Farm Bureau Meeting, Albuquerque, NM

Region 7Hot Topics**Public Availability Session for Syntex Facility Superfund Site**

An R7 public availability session at the Syntex site in Verona, Missouri is scheduled for November 18. The Syntex Facility Superfund Site is located on the same property as a chemical manufacturer, BCP Ingredients, which repackages ethylene oxide. R7's Superfund program is currently investigating 1-4 dioxane groundwater contamination at the site, and the Air & Radiation Division is working with BCP Ingredients to control ethylene oxide emissions. BCP Ingredients is not currently a PRP for the Syntex Facility Superfund Site. R7 continues to engage the Verona mayor and city council on both issues.

Riverfront Superfund Site Five-Year Review Completion & Future Actions

The director of the Superfund & Emergency Management Division signed the Third Five-Year Review for the Riverfront Superfund Site in New Haven, MO. The Third FYR deferred the protectiveness of two operable units at the site pending future site sampling and studies. The Riverfront Superfund Site is a former industrial site contaminated with chlorinated volatile organics placed on the NPL in 2000. The site consists of six OUs. Remedial actions have been completed three of the OUs and remedial actions at the other three OUs are currently being implemented/evaluated. The Third Five-Year Review completed this week found areas with completed remedial actions to be future protective (OUs 1, 3, and 5). The Maiden Lane area of the site (OU 4) was found to be protective in the short-term, and the protectiveness determination was deferred for the Industrial Drive and Wildcreek Estates areas (OUs 2 and 6). To evaluate future protectiveness of OUs 2, 4, and 6, R7 will perform vapor intrusion studies and additional soil sampling in certain areas. The agency will then determine if the remedy needs to be changed, if additional removal actions are needed, and/or if vapor mitigation systems need to be installed. It is anticipated that the studies and activities will take about one year to complete.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**National Pork Producers Council Environment Committee Meeting**

RA Gulliford has been invited to speak at the NPPC's Environment Committee meeting on November 18 regarding R7's work on nutrients and water quality. The committee is using this meeting to learn more about trading and are going to spend time with Missouri Department of Natural Resources to learn about their nutrients trading program that is under development. The RA is asked to provide a perspective from EPA Office of Water's interest in "market-based approaches." The event is being held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Close-Out Event for Kansas City Transportation and Local-Scale Air Quality Study

RA Gulliford will provide opening remarks at a close-out event on November 20 for the largest transportation air monitoring research project that EPA has ever performed. RA Gulliford's speech will address the importance of EPA's partnership with the community, including elected officials, residents, and industry, that has made this research a success.

Region 7 Grants Management Workshop

R7 will host a grants management workshop for environmental education, environmental justice, and tribal grantees on November 19-20. RA Gulliford will provide opening remarks.

Region 8Hot Topics**Effort to Reduce Uncertainty in Residential Use of Slag Material – Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel Mill**

R8 is continuing data collection to determine site-specific concentrations of metals in electric arc furnace (EAF) slag at Evraz in Pueblo, CO. EAF slag contains concentrations of manganese and hexavalent chromium that may pose risks to human health. Evraz cites a National Slag Association human health risk assessment to assert EAF slag “does not pose a health risk” when used in residential applications. R8 concluded there was insufficient evidence to support the conclusion of “no health risk.” Evraz has agreed to collect additional data. R8 will join them for a sampling event this week. Validated results are expected to be available in December or January.

Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site (BPMD) – Community Workshop and Public Meeting:

On November 7, the BPMD team presented several high-level site strategy options with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Silverton Planning Group (PG) to seek community feedback. The CAG and PG were very appreciative of EPA’s collaborative efforts and genuine interest in seeking public feedback early in the site strategy development process rather than at the end once a decision has been made. EPA will select the final site strategy by March 2020, which will be incorporated into the Site Management Plan (SMP) as part of the adaptive management pilot study. The SMP will be finalized by June 2020. This milestone meets the requirements to remove the BPMD site from the Administrators Emphasis List.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) Superfund Site Dispute between EPA and the Army**

On November 18, EPA will meet with the Army and Office of Management and Budget to discuss a short-term funding solution to allow R8 to continue to perform its oversight responsibility at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Superfund Site. R8 is working closely with EPA’s Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office and Federal Facilities Enforcement Office to resolve this dispute.

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| November 19 | RA Sopkin will participate in the Cedar City, UT Opportunity Zone event hosted by the Mayor, Cedar City Office of Economic Development, Utah’s Opportunity Zone Director, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. |
| November 20 | RA Sopkin will visit and present at the Utah Recycling Alliance’s “Zero Waste Awards” for America Recycles Day Events 2019. |

Region 9Hot Topics**Wildfire Follow-up with Pacific Gas and Electric**

DRA Jordan will join officials of other federal agencies in the Bay Area in a discussion with PG&E's CEO about "public service power shut-downs," which are planned power outages intended to prevent wildfires during hot, windy conditions. Issues include ensuring that communication about upcoming outages is robust and that drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities have back-up power.

Arizona Waters of the State Engagement

R9 joined an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality stakeholder engagement regarding development of an Arizona Waters of the State program. ADEQ is considering a State program to close what it describes as a "gap" created by the waters of the U.S. rule, which ADEQ estimates would remove 85-93% of waters in Arizona from federal protection. Several additional public meetings and tribal listening sessions are scheduled.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Public Meeting on Red Hill Tank Upgrade Proposal**

On November 19, R9 and the Hawaii Department of Health will host a public meeting in Honolulu to receive public comments on the tank upgrade proposal submitted by the U.S. Navy and Defense Logistics Agency for the large bulk field-constructed tanks at the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility. After reviewing public input and analyzing the proposal, EPA and Hawaii Department of Health will decide whether to approve or disapprove the tank upgrade proposal.

Western Regional Partnership

On November 19-20, RA Stoker will participate in the principals' meeting of the Western Regional Partnership, a group comprising western leaders of the Department of Defense, federal agencies, tribes, and the States of AZ, CA, NV, NM, UT, and CO. Topics of interest include resilience planning and disaster response. The meeting will take place at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Tribal Visits

On November 20-21, RA Stoker will visit the Pechanga and Pauma Bands of Luiseño Indians to meet with tribal leadership and environmental program staff, tour tribal lands, and discuss environmental priorities and challenges.

Region 10Hot Topics**Whidbey Island Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Concerns (WA)**

The draft Naval Air Station Whidbey Island stormwater permit public comment period closes November 14. Several residents of the island have come forward with concerns about the permit given the issues associated with PFAS/PFOA at the Air Station. During the comment period, the Navy released data and information that heightened concerns in the surrounding community. R10 has learned that PFAS/PFOA may be entering and conveyed by the municipal storm sewer system on the base and, as a result, R10 needs to re-evaluate whether the permit needs to be modified and re-noticed. R10 will reach out to the concerned community members and to the Navy to determine if there is additional information that should be considered for Whidbey Island or for other Navy facilities for which we are developing MS4 permits.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Region 10 Hosts Annual Northwest Air Directors Meeting**

On November 18 and 19, R10 will host the annual meeting of the Northwest Air Directors at the R10 office in Seattle. Executive directors and senior managers from our four states' environmental agencies and all eight local clean air agencies will meet with R10 managers and staff to discuss priorities and funding and technical needs to cooperatively address air quality issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Region 10 Administrator Hosts Paper and Wood Products Smart Sector Site Visit (OR)

RA Hladick will host a Paper and Wood Products Smart Sector Site Visit November 21 and 22 in western Oregon. EPA Headquarters and R10 staff will be joined by the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality representatives to tour the Freres Lumber Mass Plywood Facility in Lyons, OR, meet with the Tall Wood Institute at Oregon State University, and tour Peavy Hall. On November 22, we will tour the DR Johnson Cross Laminated Timber facility in Riddle, OR. During the site visit, we will discuss the economic and environmental advantages of Mass Timber and the role of the Pacific Northwest in leading the emerging market in the U.S.

Presentation and Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Stakeholder Meetings in Boise, Idaho

The Idaho Association of Highway Districts invited EPA staff to present information on stormwater management issues at a Local Transportation Convention in Boise, ID, on November 21. Also, on November 19 and 20, EPA will meet with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and with individual permittees in the area who are subject to the municipal stormwater (MS4) permitting requirements. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss EPA's pending schedule to reissue the MS4 permits in the greater Boise and Nampa Urbanized Areas. IDEQ will accompany EPA to meetings with the following permittee organizations: City of Nampa; City of Caldwell; City of Middleton; Ada County Highway District; and Idaho Transportation Department.

Region 10 Participates in Coeur d'Alene Basin Commission (ID)

DRA Pirzadeh will participate in the Coeur d'Alene Basin Commission's quarterly meeting on November 20 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. The agenda includes review of 2020 Annual Work Plan and 2020-2024 Five Year Plan, outreach activities for the last quarter, Lake Management Plan update, Citizens Coordinating Council and public input discussion, Blood Lead Report, and more.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature:

- Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Sources; Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah (R8 Proposed Rule)
- NSR Error Corrections Rule (Proposed Rule)
- Revision to Method 23 (Proposed Rule)
- Revisions to the Petition Provisions of the Title V Permitting Program (Final Rule)
- Revisions to Test Methods and Performance Specifications for Air Emission Sources (Proposed Rule)
- Iowa Revisions to the Regional Haze Plan (Final Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review:

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: February 25)
- Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Modification of Statutory Volume Targets / RFS Reset (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: May 20)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE August 19)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4)
- NSR and Title V Adjacency Determinations (Guidance: RECEIVED DATE October 9)
- Ethylene Oxide Sterilizers (ANPRM: RECEIVED DATE October 28)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule)
- Residential Woodheaters NSPS Amendments (Final Rule)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)
- Cleaner Trucks Initiative (ANPRM)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ozone Interstate Transport SIP Findings of Failure to Submit

Next week, as required by the Clean Air Act, EPA anticipates issuing findings that several states failed to submit complete interstate transport State Implementation Plans for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. For states that failed to submit plans, which were due on October 1, 2018, EPA must finalize a Federal Implementation Plan within two years if EPA has not approved a complete SIP from an affected state before then. Unlike some other types of plans under the Clean Air act, an EPA finding for an interstate transport plan does not trigger sanctions requirements. The findings of failure to submit deadline is November 22.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

Pending Signature

- Proposed Rule: Community Right-to-Know; Corrections to Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting Requirements; housekeeping rule updates provisions and adds clarity for submitters

Packages at OMB for Review

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM): Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Addition to TRI List of Chemicals
- Supplemental NPRM: Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate (LCPFAC) SNUR

Rules/Guidance Out for Public Comment, by date comment period closes

November 26	(For SACC peer review), December 30 (final comments due): Methylene Chloride (MC), Draft Risk Evaluations (RE) & SACC Meetings
November 26	(For SACC peer review), January 6, 2020 (final comments due): NMP, Draft RE & SACC Meetings
December 2	Antimicrobial Performance Evaluation Program (APEP), Draft Risk-Based Strategy to Ensure the Effectiveness of Hospital-Level Disinfectants
December 9	Confidential Business Information (CBI) Review Plan; Procedures for Review of Claims for the Identity of Chemicals on the TSCA Inventory; Revisions to CBI Substantiation Requirements
January 13, 2020	TSCA § 21 Petition to Prohibit the Use of Hydrofluoric Acid at Oil Refineries, Reasons for Agency Response; petition denial for incomplete submission by petitioner
January 30, 2020	Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard, Revision of Application Exclusion Zone Requirements; responds to stakeholder requests to clarify requirement applicability

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) Meeting

The SAP will meet November 19-22 in Arlington, VA, to review EPA's "Approaches for Quantitative Use of Surface Water Monitoring Data in Pesticide Drinking Water Assessments."

Novel New Rodenticide Registration

Within a week, OCSPP anticipates registering the first new rodenticide, alphachloralose, in 20 years. It provides a new mode of action against house mice and acts by inducing hypothermia, resulting in fatality. It poses no risks to humans. The final decision will address the four comments received from the October comment period. OCSPP intends to post a copy of the decision document, the registration notice, and the label in the docket once the registration is signed. The PRIA due date is November 20.

OPP Speaking Engagements

On November 18-19, Registration Division Director Michael Goodis will present on EPA's registration process and harmonized Maximum Residue Levels (the highest level of pesticide residue legally tolerated in or on food or feed) at the Global Hops Summit in Brussels. On November 20, Monique Perron and Anna Lowit will update Department of State staff on the reevaluation of glyphosate as part of Registration Review.

Increasing Transparency on the TSCA New Chemicals Program

On December 10, EPA will host a public meeting on the New Chemicals Program at headquarters, to discuss progress on program transparency and updates to the Working Approach to New Chemical Reviews document.

Office of the Chief Financial OfficerHot Topics**FY 2019 Agency Financial Report**

The FY 2019 Agency Financial Report is due to the President, Congress, and the public (via the agency's website) on November 19. The AFR includes the agency's audited financial statements and the OIG's audit report in addition to signed messages from the Administrator and Acting CFO along with the Administrator's Assurance Statement. The OIG requires a Management Representation Letter signed by the Administrator and Acting CFO before it will release its audit report for inclusion in the AFR. OCFO will submit the relevant documents to OEX for the Administrator's signature.

Continuing Resolution

Press has reported that Congress is working to pass a second FY 2020 Continuing Resolution through December 20. The current CR expires on November 21.

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

The following tables summarize new agency GAO and OIG audits and other related activities from November 4, 2019 through November 8, 2019.

OIG Audits – Week Ending 11/08/2019				
Audit Type & No.	Title	Office	Date	Next Steps/Comments
No significant agency activities to report.				

GAO Audits – Week Ending 11/08/2019				
Status Type	Title	Office	Engagement No.	Next Steps/Comments
No significant agency activities to report.				

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Conference Planning**

On November 13, the Acting CFO issued via e-mail a memorandum to the agency regarding Conference Planning, including a revision to the requirement for offices to submit a list of attendee names with their conference approval requests. Beginning this fiscal year, conference requests must instead include only an estimated number of attendees and, if available, a draft agenda.

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

Nothing to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

November 19	House Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing Markup of PFAS and asbestos bills (No EPA witness).
November 19	House Oversight, Environment Subcommittee will hold a hearing on Toxic, Forever Chemicals: A Call for Immediate Federal Action on PFAS (No EPA witness).
November 19	Committee on House Transportation, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee will hold a hearing on WRDA: Promoting Resiliency of our Nation's Water Resources Infrastructure (No EPA witness).
November 19	Committee on Senate Environment and Public Works will hold a hearing on S. 1087 and Potential Reforms to Improve Implementation of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act: State Perspectives (No EPA witness).
November 20	House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing on Environmental Justice entitled, "Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: The Challenges Facing Frontline Communities." EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy, Helena Wooden-Aguilar, and Lilian Dorka, Director of EPA's External Civil Rights Compliance Office, will testify together on behalf of the Agency. The same panel will feature witnesses from the Civil Rights Commission and the Government Accountability Office.
November 20	House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, will hold a hearing on "The Department of Energy's Role in Addressing Climate Change."
November 20	House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold a hearing on "Improper Payments: Time to Act."
November 20-23	The National League of Cities Annual Summit will be held in San Antonio, TX.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

Panel Discussion on Stopping Aftermarket Defeat Devices and Tampering

On November 7, the Associate Director for OECA's Air Enforcement Division spoke on a panel at the Specialty Equipment Market Association annual conference on the topic of compliance assistance and EPA's new National Compliance Initiatives on Stopping Aftermarket Defeat Devices and Tampering.

ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Enforcement Conference

On November 12, AA Bodine and other OECA leaders spoke at the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Enforcement Conference in Washington, DC. OECA covered several enforcement and compliance priorities, including the new National Compliance Initiatives, working effectively with state partners, Superfund reform, and criminal enforcement.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Cleanup at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal

On November 18, representatives from OECA's and OLEM's federal facilities offices and R8 will meet with OMB to discuss opportunities for funding oversight for cleanup at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Site in Colorado. Currently, the Army owes EPA over \$4 million for past oversight through 2019.

National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar

On November 20, AA Bodine and the Director of the Water Enforcement Division will speak at the National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar in Austin, TX. The Seminar is hosted by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and is focused on legal and regulatory challenges facing the municipal clean water community. OECA AA Bodine will speak on EPA's Clean Water Act enforcement priorities and other policy initiatives.

Office of General CounselHot Topics***Environmental Law & Policy Center v. EPA*, No. 19 -00295 (N.D. Ohio).**

New Decision: The court denied EPA's motion to dismiss plaintiffs' claims regarding Ohio's 2018 CWA 303(d) list submission as it pertains to Lake Erie. The court denied EPA's motion to dismiss plaintiffs' first claim that EPA arbitrarily and capriciously approved the state's decision to assign a "low" priority ranking to the development of a TMDL for Lake Erie. EPA had argued that it is only required to verify that a state has included a priority ranking, not to review the substance of that ranking; however the court held that EPA is required to review whether the state considered the CWA's criteria for setting a priority ranking (i.e. the "severity of the pollution" and the "uses to be made of such waters"). The court also denied EPA's motion to dismiss plaintiffs' second claim that EPA had a mandatory duty to disapprove the state's "constructive submission" of no TMDL for Lake Erie. Although the court had denied a similar claim in 2018, it held that the complaint plausibly alleged conduct by Ohio EPA since that earlier ruling that indicated the state had "clearly and unambiguously refused to develop a TMDL for Western Lake Erie."

***Black Warrior Riverkeeper v. EPA*, No. 19-00344 (S.D. Ala. Nov 8, 2019).**

New Decision: The court denied EPA's motion for a voluntary remand without vacatur. In this case plaintiffs have challenged EPA's approval of the State's decision to remove two segments of an Alabama waterbody from its CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. EPA moved for voluntary remand without vacatur to reconsider its approval in light of the court's prior decision to consider documents that plaintiffs submitted to the state, but which were not considered by EPA when it approved the State's 303(d) list. The court denied EPA's motion, concluding that "the equities weigh against granting [EPA's] request to remand without vacatur[.]" and gave the parties until Nov. 15, 2019 to submit a proposed summary judgment briefing schedule.

New NOI

By letter dated October 23, 2019, CBD submitted notice of intent to sue (NOI) under the CAA. The NOI alleges (1) that EPA failed to fulfill its mandatory duty to take final action in a timely manner on six State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions submitted to address Reasonable Available Control Technology (RACT) in response to publication of the final Oil & Gas Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG) in October of 2016; and (2) that EPA failed to fulfill its mandatory duty to issue a finding of failure to submit to compel submission of SIP revisions to address the CTG from 23 areas that have not, to date, provided the requisite SIP submission (ozone nonattainment areas and states located in the ozone transport region). In total, the NOI includes 15 states located in 6 different EPA regions.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Oral Argument**

On Wednesday November 20, the Second Circuit will hear a challenge to the TSCA mercury inventory rule in *NRDC, et al. v. EPA*, No. 18-2121. NRDC argues provisions in the final rule are contrary to TSCA and are arbitrary and capricious. NRDC seeks remand to the Agency and order EPA to collect all information to inform the 2020 inventory. EPA takes the view that supplementing data reported through this rule with data from the Agency's Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) program creates a totality of available data that will provide an adequate basis to observe long-term trends in mercury supply, use, and trade.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

North American Development Bank Board Meeting

OITA PDAA Jane Nishida will represent EPA at the North American Development Bank (NADB) semi-annual Board of Directors Meeting in San Antonio, TX. During the meeting, the Board will approve \$514 million in loans and grants to support eight environmental projects that will benefit more than 1.39 million residents in communities along the US-Mexico border. These include two wastewater projects, improvements to two drinking water systems, a project to improve storm water management, and three renewable energy projects.

National Tribal Caucus Fall Meeting

AIEO Director Scott Mason participated in the 2019 National Tribal Caucus (NTC) fall meeting this week hosted by the Suquamish Indian Tribe in Washington State. Among the agenda topics were discussions of current and upcoming EPA and NTC priorities, orientation for new NTC members, the annual NTC budget and priorities document, and potential NTOC charter revisions. EPA and NTC representatives will also participate in an environmental tour on Puget Sound organized by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

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|----------------|--|
| November 15-19 | Administrator Wheeler will travel to Israel to advance bilateral cooperation under the EPA-Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection MOU and deliver the keynote speech at the Water Technology and Environment Control (WATEC) Conference. |
| November 18-22 | EPA will attend the UN Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group Meeting on Marine Litter and Microplastics in Bangkok, Thailand. |
| November 19 | OITA PDAA Jane Nishida will speak at the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee Meeting in Washington DC. |

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1): On October 15, the public comment period ended. OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- CCR permitting NPRM (package 3): We are following up on comments received from OMB and interagency review.
- CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B): On November 4, the Administrator signed the Part A package. We anticipate FR publication no later than November 18, with a 60-day public comment period. Part B is with OP for OMB review.
- OLEM's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery is working on the final decision package for the Georgia CCR permitting program. We anticipate it coming to the OLEM IO later this month for concurrence.

Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP)

This week, we received additional comments from OMB on the RIA. OLEM has been coordinating with OECA. We anticipate Administrator signature no later than November 22.

Ongoing Major Superfund NPL Sites

We are working with R1 on the Housatonic River; R2 on Woodbrook Road and Rolling Knolls; R4 on Oak Ridge and Birmingham 35th Ave.; R8 on Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor and Quendall Terminal.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)

On November 4, the packages for both Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) and Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) began OMB review. There is a court-ordered deadline of December 4 for the Industry 2 proposed rule package to be signed.

Aerosol Cans Universal Waste Final Rule.

We anticipate Administrator signature on November 15 to align with America Recycles Day.

PFOA and PFOS Contaminated Groundwater Guidance

- OLEM is completing an options selection memorandum for the Administrator that should allow for the selected option approach to be incorporated into the guidance that we plan to send to OMB in December.
- Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM: The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20 for OMB review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

America Recycles Week Activities

OLEM senior leadership will join the Administrator at the Innovation Fair on November 14 and the Leadership Roundtable and America Recycles Summit, both on November 15.

Superfund and RCRA Division Director Meetings

OLEM senior leadership will participate in these separate meetings taking place in Potomac Yards on November 19-21.

OLEM Monthly Business Review

OLEM's MBR is taking place on November 21.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Headquarters Conference Center

The conference center development is on schedule to proceed. Occupancy will take place by the end of next calendar year.

Arizona DEQ Adopts EPA Data Management System

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is now using the Substance Registry Services (SRS) system to identify data quality issues and improve efficiencies in its internal processes. Integration into this system will help Arizona complete its EPCRA reporting by presenting the proper chemical names for them to select on their form. The adoption of SRS by Arizona is another example of states using an EPA shared service to improve the quality of their data and reduce burden on industry. Contact: Matt Leopard, Office of Information Management (OIM), OMS-EI, (202) 566-1698.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Office of PolicyHot Topics**Environmental Justice and Title VI Hearing**

On November 20, Helena Wooden-Aguilar, Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy, and Lilian Dorka, Director for OGC's External Civil Rights Compliance Office, will provide testimony before the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on EPA Environmental Justice. Representatives from GAO and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will also be on the panel.

Fall Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Plan

During the week of November 18, the Office of Management and Budget is likely to issue the fall 2019 Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Plan. The Agenda includes the regulatory and deregulatory actions EPA plans to issue in the next year; the Plan is a subset of high priority actions in the Agenda. Once released, the Agenda and Plan will be available at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB		
Subject		OMB Due Date
DOE FRM: Critical Electric Infrastructure Information; New Administrative Procedures		11/15/2019
USDA/NRCS Interim: Regional Conservation Partnership Program		11/15/2019
DOC/NOAA FRM: Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico		11/25/2019
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers		N/A
Documents Sent to the OFR from October 31 – November 14, 2019		
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
10002-24-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	11-14-2019
10001-69-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Draft Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessments for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	11-13-2019
10001-70-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	11-13-2019
10002-26-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Emissions Reduction Market System Sunsetting	11-13-2019
10002-25-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Second Limited Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS	11-13-2019
10002-14-Region 3	Notice of Administrative Settlement Agreement for Recovery of Past Response Costs Pursuant to Section 122(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, As Amended	11-13-2019
10002-19-OAR	Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Collection for Importation of On-highway Vehicles and Motorcycles and Nonroad Engines, Vehicles, and Equipment; EPA ICR Number 2583.02, OMB Control Number 2060-0717	11-13-2019
10002-02-OLEM	Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; A Holistic Approach to Closure Part A: Deadline to Initiate Closure	11-13-2019
10002-10-OGC	Modernizing the Administrative Exhaustion Requirements for Permitting Decisions and Streamlining Procedures for Permit Appeals	11-13-2019
10001-95-OMS	Good Neighbor Environmental Board	11-08-2019
10002-08-OW	Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council	11-07-2019

10002-03-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule	11-07-2019
10002-04-OW	Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category	11-07-2019
10002-12-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits	11-07-2019
10001-71-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pyrethroids; Notice of Availability	11-06-2019
10001-99-OAR	Alternative Methods for Calculating Off-cycle Credits under the Light-duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program: Applications from Nissan North America, Inc.	11-06-2019
10001-97-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Administrative Revisions to Definitions, Remedies, and Enforcement Orders Sections and Incorporation by Reference of National Ambient Air Quality Standards	11-06-2019
10001-98-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review	11-06-2019
10001-34-OCSPP	TSCA Section 21 Petition to Prohibit the Use of Hydrofluoric Acid at Oil Refineries; Reasons for Agency Response	11-05-2019
9992-82-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for August 2019	11-04-2019
10000-50-OCSPP	Propyzamide; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions	11-04-2019
10000-96-OCSPP	Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions	11-04-2019
10001-27-OCSPP	Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances	11-04-2019
10001-80-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Transport Element for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard	11-04-2019
10001-93-OAR	Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines Amendments	11-04-2019
10001-63-OCSPP	Cherokee Nation System Solutions LLC; Transfer of Data	11-04-2019
10001-78-ORD	Availability of the Systematic Review Protocol for the PFDA, PFNA, PFHxA, PFHxS, and PFBA IRIS Assessments	11-04-2019
10001-84-OA	Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) Notice of Membership Solicitation	11-04-2019
10001-87-OCSPP	N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP); Draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Risk Evaluation and TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meeting; Notice of Availability, Public Meeting, and Request for Comment	11-04-2019
10001-85-Region 6	Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Texas; Regional Haze and Interstate Visibility Transport Federal Implementation Plan: Proposal of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) and Interstate Visibility Transport Provisions	11-04-2019
10001-92-OLEM	National Priorities List - Listing Sites; Fall 2019 Final Rule	10-31-2019
10001-91-OLEM	National Priorities List - Listing Sites; Fall 2019 NPRM	10-31-2019

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Senior Managers

Next week, ORD senior managers, division directors, branch chiefs, and other leaders will gather in RTP for the first ORD leadership workshop and training since the reorganization. We are excited about a wide variety of presenters, including Doug Benevento and Mara Kamen from EPA.

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science

On November 8, EPA transmitted the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking to OMB for E.O. 12866 review, and on November 13, Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology during a hearing titled “Strengthening Transparency or Silencing Science? The Future of Science in EPA Rulemaking.”

Tribal Science and Tribal Consultation

From November 13-15, the National EPA-Tribal Science Council met at the ORD lab in Narragansett, RI. Goals of the meeting were to identify opportunities for building collaborations with EPA research expertise and address tribal science challenges. On November 14, ORD held a webinar for tribal governments as part of a consultation on specific elements of ORD’s national research programs.

New Test Method for Community Mapping of Radon in Puerto Rico

ORD and R2 are conducting a series of radon measurements in homes in PR. Long-term objectives of the study are to safeguard the communities of PR from radon risk through education, testing, and remedial action and to map radon concentrations across the island. This information can be used for future measurements, home mitigation, and the development of building code to avoid radon problems. This project includes identifying hot spots where homes, schools, and other public buildings are located and providing technical assistance to communities and the University of Puerto Rico team to build local technical capacity for reducing radon risk.

Wildfire Course Released

EPA partnered with CDC to develop a new online course, [Wildfire Smoke and Your Patients’ Health](#), with [continuing education](#) credit provided by the CDC. Launched November 7, the course is intended for physicians, registered nurses, asthma educators, and others involved in clinical or health education environments, but is useful to anyone who wants to learn about health effects associated with wildfire smoke and steps to take before and during a wildfire to reduce exposure. We are excited to have this new educational resource available as a complement to the recently updated publication: [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Federal Lead Action Plan: Interagency Lead Research Workshop

ORD is preparing for a December 4-5 workshop that will bring together federal policy makers, regulators, and scientific staff from agencies participating in the President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. The goal of the workshop is to share progress to date, identify research gaps and opportunities, and prioritize next steps to leverage, coordinate, and further implement the Goal 4 actions in the Federal Lead Action Plan. The workshop will be held at the [National Institutes of Health Headquarters](#) in Bethesda, MD.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Proposed Multi-Sector General Permit

As early as next week, EPA regions will propose 2020 reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), which covers eligible stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity for 29 sectors in areas where EPA is the permitting authority. This permit will replace the 2015 MSGP, which expires on June 4, 2020. A Settlement Agreement on the 2015 MSGP specified potential revisions to the permit to be proposed or considered in the next issuance. EPA requested input from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NAS) National Research Council (NRC) on some of these potential revisions and will consider the results of their study in issuance of the 2020 MSGP.

2019 CIFA SRF Workshop

Next week, OW will participate in the 2019 Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities (CIFA) State Revolving Fund (SRF) Workshop in Cleveland, OH. The SRF Workshop convenes SRF managers, federal partners, and finance industry leaders to learn what's working, what's new, and what's next in water infrastructure financing. During the workshop, Office of Wastewater Management Director Andrew Sawyers and Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Director Jennifer McLain will recognize exceptional Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF projects.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

EPA Gulf Restoration Meeting (RESTORE/NRDA)

Next week, DAA Lee Forsgren and DAA Best-Wong will attend the EPA Gulf Restoration Meeting to discuss coordination of EPA's various Gulf Restoration roles, including the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee Council, Trustee Implementation Groups (TIGs), and the Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE) Council. They will also agree on processes and procedures to ensure EPA efficiently and effectively implements its responsibilities. Meeting at EPA HQ. Closed press